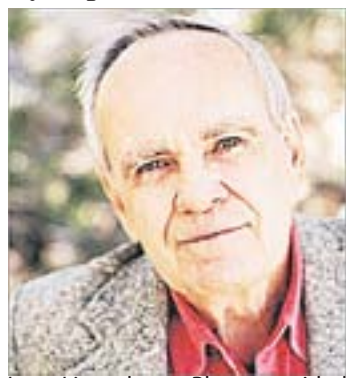


# Life in LAMORINDA

## Has Our Country Finally Become Colorblind?

A Commonwealth Club Presentation

By Sophie Braccini



Leon Litwack Photo provided

As our nation prepares to inaugurate its first African-American President, some Americans wonder if our country can truly become colorblind. At its core, the story of America is the constant re-defining of the ideas most central to the Constitution: Liberty, freedom and equality. How will Obama's victory shape American history? How far have we come as a result of this past election, and how much farther do we still need to go? Three Bay Area professors will debate these questions on Thursday, January 15, at the Veterans Hall, 3780 Mount Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. The event is titled: **Problems with Progress: a Historical Perspective on the Presidency.**

"I don't think our country has evolved enough," says Leon Litwack, Pulitzer Prize Winner and Professor Emeritus of American

History at the University of California, Berkeley (UCB). "Racism is very much a part of our country, the election is an important step but we can't know yet if the symbolic impact of the election will be strong enough; we still have a long way to go." Litwack believes that something a black preacher in the 70's said about the impact of the civil right movement is still valid: "Everything has changed and nothing has changed," and that's where we are now," adds Litwack.

Litwack is the 1980 winner of the Pulitzer Prize for history for his book "Been in the Storm So Long: The Aftermath of Slavery." He retired from UCB at the end of the spring 2007 semester. From 1964 to 2007, Litwack taught more than 30,000 at UCB. For much of that time, he taught the introductory course in post-Civil War American History, and was the Alexander F. and May T. Morrison Professor of American History. In addition to the Pulitzer Prize in History, he has received many honors in recognition of his distinguished and path-breaking scholarship, including the Francis Parkman Prize, the American Book Award, and election to the presidency of the Organization of American Historians. Litwack has also been an enormously popular and influential teacher. He was pro-

filed in Newsweek's 2006 edition of the "Giving Back Awards," having been nominated by one of his former students. He has received two distinguished teaching awards. Litwack was also presented with the Golden Apple Award for Outstanding Teaching in 2007 by the Associated Students of the University of California.

Richard Thompson Ford, the George E. Osborne Professor of Law at Stanford Law School, will present with Litwack. An expert on civil rights and anti-discrimination law, Richard Thompson Ford has distinguished himself as an insightful voice and compelling writer on questions of race and multiculturalism. His work has focused on the social and legal conflicts surrounding claims of discrimination, on the causes and effects of racial segregation, and on the use of territorial boundaries as instruments of social regulation. His book "THE RACE CARD: How Bluffing About Bias Makes Race Relations Worse," a sharp, tightly argued and delightfully contentious work, Richard Thompson Ford vivisectioned every sacred cow in "post-racist" America.

James Taylor, Associate Professor of Politics at the University of San Francisco, will be the third participant in the panel. Taylor is

the president-elect of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Southern California. His dissertation was on contemporary Black politics and political involvement as reflected in the Million Man March, in which he personally participated. Most recently, Professor Taylor contributed a chapter to Barbara McGraw and Jo Renee Formicola's Taking Religious Pluralism Seriously (Baylor, 2005). He has also written a chapter for the book, Religious Leaders and Faith-Based Politics (2002), and contributed an essay to the 2002 Report on Violence in San Francisco, published by the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, and focused in particular on the causes and impact of violence on communities of color. Taylor has served as a Task Force member for the "Slavery Disclosure Ordinance," sponsored by San Francisco County and City Supervisor Sophie Maxwell. He is working on a book titled "Sons of Thunder: Malcolm X, Louis Farrakhan & The Haunting of America."

The California Historical Society co-organized the evening. Tickets are \$12 for members, \$18 for non-members, \$7 for students. For tickets, visit commonwealthclub.org or call (415) 597-6705.

**S** Seasons Interior Design



Is this the Season for change? We combine creative ideas with budget-friendly solutions to restyle the rooms you live and work in.

**Paint Color Consultation:** I can show you the tricks to the perfect color in your room

call: Shannon Boehme at (925) 385-0293, Lafayette

## World Class Spa Experience

Jacuzzi Sauna Steam Room Rainforest Shower

### Voted Best Manicure!

by San Jose Mercury News, Metro, San Francisco Magazine

#### Holidays Massage Special

**\$45**

50min Swedish or Deep Tissue  
Purchase of Two Massages required  
2nd massage must be used within 30 days  
Both massages must be used by the same person  
See stores for other terms & conditions

#### Fall Pedicure Special

**\$25**

Spa Pedicure +  
Free Sugar Scrub Exfoliation +  
Free Callus Treatment

Gift Card Available. Party is welcome.

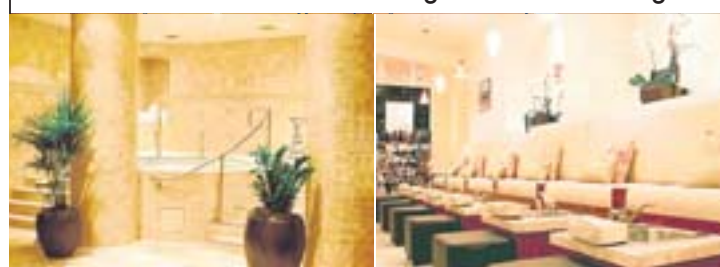
Thousands Retail / Boutique Products  
Clothings, Shoes, Fashion Jewelleries, Bags, Skincare, ...



3589 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. CA  
925-299-8877

Open Daily 10am-7pm

Manicure - Pedicure - Massage - Facial - Waxing



## Lamorinda's Diverse Talents Help East Bay Deaf Children

By Sophie Braccini

Orinda's Jill Ellis is the Director of the Center for Early Intervention on Deafness (CEID), a Berkeley not-for-profit school servicing deaf and hard of hearing children from the East Bay. Last November she invited to the Center a team from Kaiser Oakland that had performed a treatment that changed the lives of many deaf patients: cochlear implant surgery.

The team included the Chief of Pediatric Otolaryngology Dr. Joshua Gottschall, Chief of Otolaryngology Dr. Raymond Hilsinger (an Orinda resident as well) and audiologist Linda Barton. The team usually sees a patient about three times, but when they visited CEID they had the opportunity to see the children one or two years after surgery and witness the

progress they have made.

A cochlear implant is a surgically implanted electronic device that provides a sense of sound to a person who is profoundly deaf or severely hard of hearing. Unlike hearing aids, the cochlear implant does not amplify sound, but works by directly stimulating any functioning auditory nerves inside the cochlea (the auditory portion of the

inner ear) with an electric field.

... continued on page 7

**Pamela Halloran,**  
Broker Associate  
**Village Associates**  
**(925) 323-4100**  
Pamela@PamelaHalloran.com



**In your corner,  
more important  
than ever  
Put my 20+ years  
of experience to  
work for you!**




**\$39**  
One month trial offer

**New Year ... New Body!**

1460 Moraga Road Suite F, Moraga  
Moraga Shopping Center, behind McCaulous  
[www.starpilates.com](http://www.starpilates.com)  
925-376-7500

**Professional Massage Therapy**  
Prevention & Treatment of Chronic Pain,  
Injury & Emotional Stress Without  
Drugs or Surgery  
15 years experience

**Save 50 dollars\***  
(20% off two sessions)  
\*new clients only, call Tommy for details  
Thomas James Helean NCTMB, PFT  
925-285-8669

Located in Star Pilates, open to non members  
see massage at [www.starpilates.com](http://www.starpilates.com)

**McCaulou's**  
Webkinz  
**13.95**  
In Stock Now!  
New Styles  
Arriving Daily!



**McCaulou's**  
Save Gas  
Save Money  
Save Time  
Shop your local McCaulou's

**McCaulou's**  
**FREE Giftwrapping\***  
at McCaulou's  
\*On items of 15.00 or more

**McCaulou's**  
Gift Certificates  
on line at  
[www.mccaulous.com](http://www.mccaulous.com)  
Phone 925-283-3380  
Fax 925-283-7855

**Happy New Year... Gift Certificates**  
**Earn Bonus Bucks Starting Today Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
**Treat yourself with Bonus Gift Certificates that you can use throughout the stores!**

<p>\$\$\$\$\$\$</p> <p>Shoe Dept. Mens, Womens, Kids <b>\$20.00</b> Gift Certificate! Spend \$100.00 or more on Shoes and receive a <b>\$20.00</b> Gift Certificate</p>	<p>\$\$\$\$\$\$</p> <p>Kids Dept. Infant thru size 16 <b>\$10.00</b> Gift Certificate! Spend \$50.00 or more on Kids and receive a <b>\$10.00</b> Gift Certificate</p>	<p>\$\$\$\$\$\$</p> <p>Lingerie Dept. <b>\$20.00</b> Gift Certificate! Spend \$100.00 or more on Lingerie and receive a <b>\$20.00</b> Gift Certificate</p>	<p>\$\$\$\$\$\$</p> <p>Jrs Dept. <b>\$10.00</b> Gift Certificate! Spend \$50.00 or more on Jrs Apparel and receive a <b>\$10.00</b> Gift Certificate</p>	<p>\$\$\$\$\$\$</p> <p>Mens Dept. <b>\$20.00</b> Gift Certificate! Spend \$100.00 or more on Mens Apparel and receive a <b>\$20.00</b> Gift Certificate</p>	<p>\$\$\$\$\$\$</p> <p>Womens Dept. <b>\$20.00</b> Gift Certificate! Spend \$100.00 or more on Womens Apparel and receive a <b>\$20.00</b> Gift Certificate</p>
---	--	---	--	---	---

Earn Gift Certificates for yourself by simply shopping between today and Sun., Jan 11th

**McCaulou's**

Bonus Gift Certificates redeemable Mon., Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> thru Sat., Jan. 31, 2009

In the event that the original purchase is returned, gift vouchers must also be returned or the value of the non returned gift vouchers will be deducted from the credit or refund.  
Lancome, Clinique and Estee Lauder Brands excluded.

Qualifying purchase and Bonus Gift Certificates not valid in conjunction with other promotions or coupons

LAFAYETTE Plaza Center    DANVILLE Town & Country    MORAGA Moraga Center    COUNTRYWOOD Treat & Bancroft    CLAYTON ROAD Vineyard Center    ORINDA Village Square    MONTCLAIR 6211 Medau Place, Oakland